

Message

From: Huitric, Michele [Huitric.Michele@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/3/2018 11:47:34 PM
To: LEE, LILY [LEE.LILY@EPA.GOV]
CC: Fairbanks, Brianna [Fairbanks.Brianna@epa.gov]; Chesnutt, John [Chesnutt.John@epa.gov]; Herrera, Angeles [Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov]; Harris-Bishop, Rusty [Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov]; Yogi, David [Yogi.David@epa.gov]; Huitric, Michele [Huitric.Michele@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Legal review - SF Chronicle response - revised draft incorporating some of David's comments
Attachments: Parcel UC-2 RACR - excerpt re excavation of slope.pdf; Dean email 2004-7-20 - HPNS322 Draft Final.pdf

Thanks, Lily and Brianna. I have made two very minor tweaks that Bill Glenn provided me (highlighted in light blue). I have also attached the relevant documents we are sending.

Once John/Angeles provide Superfund's greenlight, I will be able to send to the reporter.

She is hoping to hear from us today, as story may run tomorrow.

Thanks,
Michele

From: Fairbanks, Brianna
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2018 4:37 PM
To: LEE, LILY <LEE.LILY@EPA.GOV>
Cc: Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>; Yogi, David <Yogi.David@epa.gov>; Huitric, Michele <Huitric.Michele@epa.gov>; Harris-Bishop, Rusty <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Legal review - SF Chronicle response - revised draft incorporating some of David's comments

Looks good to me.

Brianna Fairbanks

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From: LEE, LILY
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2018 4:35 PM
To: Fairbanks, Brianna <Fairbanks.Brianna@epa.gov>
Cc: Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>; Yogi, David <Yogi.David@epa.gov>; Huitric, Michele <Huitric.Michele@epa.gov>; Harris-Bishop, Rusty <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>
Subject: Legal review - SF Chronicle response - revised draft incorporating some of David's comments

Dear Brianna,

Please give a legal review to this revised version.

Dear David,

Thank you for your review. I have incorporated some of your suggestions, highlighted in yellow. Later on when you're back in the office, I can walk you through the technical facts in response to some of your other suggestions. Also, it can help to stay consistent with language already circulated widely in previous handouts and press responses since Oct 2016 on these same issues.

-Lily

2018-5-3 SF Chronicle Questions EPA Responses V3

Q1: Do you still maintain that the EPA's 2002 scanner van results are meaningful? Was it reasonable for the EPA to rely in part on the scanner van results in its decision to approve the transfer of Parcel A to San Francisco? (In a 2016 fact sheet on Parcel A, the EPA listed the 2002 scanner van survey as one reason that led to the EPA's approval of the transfer.

The scanner van technology is a "first look" at locating gamma emitting radionuclide contamination at or near the surface and is often used to prioritize more soil sampling for further radioanalyses. The results of the scanner van are one line of evidence that EPA relied on in investigating questions brought up regarding Parcel A, but it is not the only source of information. Please see below (response to question #2) for additional investigation and cleanup conducted on this parcel.

Q2: It's our understanding that there will now be resampling of parcels, and that Parcel A is not included. Given the allegations from the whistleblowers, and concerns about the inadequacy of the 2002 EPA scanner van survey of Parcel A, should a comprehensive soil survey for radiation now be conducted on Parcel A? If not, why not?

Historically, the majority of Parcel A was used for residences and administrative offices, not industrial activities. The only radiological materials found at Parcel A were sandblast grit and firebricks; these have since been removed. Former Buildings 322, 816, and 821 had potential for radiological contamination. The Navy scanned all three buildings and did not find radiological contamination above required cleanup levels. Buildings 322 and 816 were demolished and removed. Building 821 is located on Crisp Road, not in the developed portion of Parcel A. No other sources of radiological contamination were identified during the investigation or cleanup of Parcel A.

Tetra Tech EC Inc. did not do any radiological work at Parcel A except at Building 322, which was demolished and removed many years ago. In addition, following the removal of Building 322, an EPA health physicist conducted an independent scan of the area to confirm that the former building site was clean. The EPA health physicist did not detect any radiological contamination (attached is the memo documenting his work). Because the site was clean, it was transferred without restriction.

Q3: Specifically, have you followed up on the claim of Anthony Smith that he found a hot cesium sample on Parcel A? Should that specific location on Parcel A be tested for radiation and/or remediated?

EPA took seriously Mr. Smith's claim, and multiple EPA staff have conducted field visits to the location that Mr. Smith indicated. This location was actually on Parcel UC-2, adjacent to Parcel A. In 2012, after Mr. Smith's reported sample collection occurred, the Navy contractor Engineering / Remediation Resources Group removed all soil down to a depth of two feet below the surface (unless bedrock was encountered at a more shallow depth) and replaced it with clean soil at this location as part of placement of a "durable cover" required across the entire site. The new clean soil came from outside the shipyard and was tested for radiological and chemical contamination before it was imported. This link gives documentation of this cleanup work: http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/final_documents2?global_id=38440004&doc_id=60308702.

Attached is a relevant excerpt from this documentation for your convenience.

Q4: There is a commercial kitchen close to the location where Smith says he took the hot cesium sample. Are you concerned about this, from a safety standpoint? Should the public be concerned? Should the owners and clients of the kitchen be concerned? If not, why not?

No, we are not concerned about this from a safety standpoint. Please see response to question #3.

Q5: There are construction crews who have recently worked on Parcel A without protective gear to prevent radiation exposure. Should they be concerned about possible exposure to radioactive materials? Should the people they come into contact with, such as their families, be concerned? If not, why not?

No. We stand by our previous statement that we have no reason to question any cleanup work performed on Parcel A. Please see responses above.

Q6: Do you still have confidence in the work that Tetra Tech did on Parcel A cleanup, including its remediation of radiological contamination in a handful of buildings (322, 816, etc) and its replacement of excavated soil with backfill they said was clean?

Yes. We stand by our previous statement that we have no reason to question any cleanup work performed on Parcel A. Please see responses above.

Q7: We have been told by a former Hunter's Point technician that he took a walk near the site in February of this year and observed the site through binoculars for an hour. He said he saw a dump truck digging up loads of wet slushy material from the shoreline at the border of Parcel E/Parcel F, then driving the material to a hillside on or near Parcel A and dumped the material on the hill. Our source says there was no radiation control of the truck as it moved from a potentially contaminated part of the site (Parcel E/F) to Parcel A. Are you aware of any similar breakdowns in radiation protocol at the site right now? Have you investigated any such breakdowns?

This is the first we have heard of this information, so we cannot respond at this time. We will look into this further based on the information you have already provided. If there are any additional details to share about this event, individuals can contact EPA's cleanup project manager Lily Lee at 415-947-4187 and lee.lily@epa.gov.

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